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THE HITOPADEŚA OF NÂRÂYAṆA, EDITED BY PROFESSOR PETERSON.

To the energy and learning of Professor Peterson, of Bombay, Sanskrit scholars are indebted for a new critical and commentated edition of the Hitopadeśa. Its value for the study of Sanskrit will be readily admitted on all sides and the excellence of the work done by the learned gentleman must become evident to any one who knows how cumbersome and unwieldy commentated editions of Sanskrit works generally are. Since Lassen and Schlegel published their edition in 1829, the text has stood unaltered, and the importance of several MSS. which have since been discovered can be realized only now that they have been collated with the older ones and the text as hitherto accepted. Prof. Peterson's task has not been an easy one. It required courage and the greatest possible care and painstaking to stand up against the authority of Schlegel and Lassen without tripping himself; to show them to be failing in accuracy, and wanting respect for the words of their author. He accuses his predecessors of having wantonly mangled and destroyed the text, "of having wrongly deserted their MSS. in favour of inferior readings, taken from editions preceding their own," of having in short, "cut up and rearranged the text of the Hitopadeśa to suit their fancy." It would be beyond our scope to examine how far these charges are justified, but we are inclined to give them credence, for Professor Peterson proves himself in the present work not only an intelligent and penetrating investigator, but also trustworthy as a guide, and careful and painstaking as a scholar. The importance of his work as a class book can, in fact, hardly be overestimated, and we place it beside Professor Jolly's edition of the Manava Dharma Śāstra, as deserving and likely to win universal popularity. His text

October 31, 1887.

was prepared originally from three MSS. belonging to the collection of the Government of Bombay, but during the printing of the book he gained access to the celebrated British Museum MS., which Prof. C. Bendall had acquired for the Trustees in Nepal. Its reading was incorporated in the text of the latter part, and added in an appendix to the pages already printed, also to be incorporated in the text, should a second edition be called for. A careful and complete collation of this very valuable MS. is of course indispensable for every critical edition of the Hitopadeśa of the future. It was written in the year 493 of the Nepal era or A.D. 1373, when "Jayârjunadeva was reigning in Nepal," and it confirms in a most remarkable way the oldest of the three Bombay MSS. This is especially noticeable with regard to the numerous excrescences which encumber the existing text. Here there is almost complete unanimity between the two MSS. "If," says Professor Peterson, "the discrepancies between the two were tabulated, it would be found that by far the greater number are cases where the one MS. has आ for the other's वदति. On that very minor point I have myself come to the conclusion that the writer of the Hitopadeśa used neither the one word nor the other, but introduced his speakers in stage fashion by their names only. Be that as it may, I think it can be confidently asserted that, apart from the trifling matter just referred to, we have in these two MSS. presented to us, for the first time, the text of the Hitopadeśa, as the author wrote it."

The Hitopadeśa has long been and will long continue to be the book most commonly put in the hands of a beginner

of Sanskrit, and the present edition is the first which is really fitted for that purpose, explaining as it does those difficulties at least, which are certain to perplex every tyro. At the same time it brings to the level of the Hindu schoolboy's intelligence "the life and wanderings—extending now over centuries of time—of a book which in itself is not the least of the links that bind together East and West."

Together with his edition of the *Hitopadeśa*, Professor Peterson's and Pandit Durgāprasāda's joint edition of the *Subhāshitāvali* of Vallabhadeva has come to hand. It is a careful and scholarly piece of work, which reflects infinite credit on the editors, and will doubtless attract attention both in India and at home. Based on a careful collation of existing MSS., and accompanied by explanatory notes and also by an introduction in which an attempt is made to put together all that is known of each poet, and so far as was possible all that with any plausibility could be conjectured about them, it is likely to make this Anthology a favourite text-book among Sanskrit students. The beauty of some of the poetry is unequalled, and its claim may well be admitted, "to bring much that is admirable, and nothing that is not admirable in Sanskrit verse."

In conclusion, it may be worth mentioning that Professor

Peterson's search for Sanskrit MSS. has lately yielded brilliant results. His third report, covering the years 1884-86, which forms an extra number (45, Vol. XVIII.) of the *Journal of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, is all the more valuable on account of the numerous extracts of each MS. it gives, particularly so in the case of a number of MSS. dealing with Jain literature, which, as has frequently been pointed out in these pages, is likely to be the subject of far more attention and study in future than has been bestowed upon it in the past.

He reports also on his third visit to Cambay in February, 1886, when he was able to examine the books in Sântināth's Temple, which had been impounded through a lawsuit. Amongst these he found a copy of Dharmottarāchārya's Commentary on the *Nyāyabindu*, which he hopes to publish at some future time, it being a book of great interest and importance. Prof. Peterson in turning over the pages of this treasure of the past came upon the following striking passage, which he quotes to show the character of Dharmottarāchārya's work—"The world breeds nothing but a chain of evils that begin with birth; but He hath overcome the World. It is He that fighteth for us. His words lighten the darkness of our souls. Glory to Buddha."

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE tenth annual meeting, under the presidency of Alderman Johnson, Chairman of the Birmingham Free Library Committee, commenced at Birmingham on Sept. 20. The President, in his address, after pointing out the great value of libraries as an educational agent, defended the use of novels from indiscriminate condemnation. Nothing could have been more appropriate in a great centre of the modern movement for popular instruction than this vindication of the function of the town library. Mr. W. Blades read a paper "On the Present Aspect of the Question Who was the Inventor of Printing?" in which he regarded the contending claims made for Koster and Gutenberg as still undetermined. Some good advice was given by Mr. F. Madan as to "What to aim at in Local Bibliography."—Mr. Sam Timmins read a paper "On Special Collections of Books in and near Birmingham," treating the subject with the fullness of knowledge and enthusiasm that might naturally be expected from that veteran bibliophile.—Mr. J. D. Mullins read a paper "On Free Library Bye-Laws," paying particular attention to the question of a separate students' room, which he considered inadvisable, and complained of the abuse of the reading room by betting, writing out orders, and the exhibition of samples.

On the 21st, Mr. Whitworth Wallis read a paper on the "Relation of Art Galleries and Museums to Free Libraries." So intimate is the connection between the two that Mr. Wallis considers the one incomplete without the other, and in the Birmingham Art Gallery lists have been prepared, which were hung in the various galleries, containing the titles of works which might with advantage be consulted in the Reference Library.—After a discussion, in which Dr. Garnett and Sir Thomas Martineau took part, Mr. R. K. Dent told the history of the various libraries in the Midlands.—Mr. J. Y. MacAlister contributed a humorous paper, entitled "Wanted, a Librarian." Substituting fictitious names, he drew a most grotesque picture of the difficulties of a free library committee who had to appoint a librarian, and who eventually selected a missionary returned from Andaman. In the discussion which followed Mr. MacAlister's paper a general opinion was expressed that the time had passed for the employment of untrained men as librarians, and especially as there was now an ample supply of young men who had received efficient training as assistants. One gentleman said that the best way of securing the appointment of able librarians was to have a better class of men on the Library Committees, which, very often, were mere "literary dust-holes," to which Town Councils relegated men for whom they could not find room on other committees. This will be read with astonishment by those who know the library management of large towns.—Mr. C. J. Woodward described some experiments which he had made as to the effects of gas

on leather bindings. Being unable to secure that all the leather tested was, to begin with, of the same strength, he could not offer the results as more than suggestive, but they did show that gas, by yielding deposits of sulphuric acid, injured the bindings of books, and that heat did so in a less degree. He suggested that it might be possible to establish some test for binding materials, such as existed in the iron and steel trades.

The discussion on Professor Woodward's paper was continued on the following day.—Prof. Tilden and Mr. Cowell thought the experiments should be continued, while Mr. John Plant said that if they would go back to the old days of non-contract work and close the libraries at dusk, instead of lighting in the evening with gas, there would not be much to complain of. It seems to be tolerably clear that if the gas is not lighted, it will not inflict any great injury upon the books, especially if these are well bound to begin with!

On Thursday, September 22, Mr. J. W. Bradley in a paper "On Books before Printing," dealt with illumination and the other methods of the pre-typographic ages. After hearing a paper from Mr. Frank Pacy "On Town Libraries and Surrounding Districts," the Conference passed the following resolution: "That the resolution passed last year with respect to receiving in free libraries individual subscriptions from residents outside the rating area is in direct opposition to the spirit of the Public Libraries Act, is hereby rescinded," and the whole question was referred to the Council of the Association for consideration.—Mr. C. E. Scarse read a paper "On Proprietary Libraries in Birmingham," which was followed by one from Mr. William Downing "On Birmingham and Literature," showing the connection of Dr. Johnson, Dr. Darwin, Miss Martineau and other eminent authors with the town.—Mr. W. S. Brassington read a paper on Thomas Hall and the library founded by him at King's Norton. Having told the story of the life of the founder, he enumerated a number of rare volumes in the library, and said now that attention had been called to the collection he hoped that means would be taken to save the books from total decay in the locked cupboards of the dilapidated and disused grammar school.—Mr. J. E. Foster presented a paper on an Open Reference Library at Cambridge. This consists of about 1000 volumes entirely free to the public without any formality of any kind in connection with the city library. So far from there being any great loss attending this freedom, the library has only lost about two volumes a year, and has saved the cost of an assistant who would otherwise have had to be employed.

The concluding business of the Association was then gone into. The Council in their report congratulated the Conference on the fact that the Library Acts had been adopted in so

many new places during the year. A motion protesting against the reduction of the grant to the British Museum was carried unanimously. After the usual votes of thanks, the officers for the coming year were appointed, and the Conference concluded.

From a social point of view the meeting was a great success. The Mayor's reception was on Tuesday the 20th, and

on the 22nd the President entertained the members to dinner. Excursions were made to St. Mary's College, Oscott, Stratford-on-Avon, Lichfield, and Althorp, where the matchless treasures of Lord Spencer's library were displayed. No previous gathering of the Library Association will leave pleasanter memories, though some of them may, perhaps, claim greater results in bibliography and library economy.

SHORTHAND CELEBRATIONS.

THE fact that the present year is the Jubilee of Phonography, and that it may also be regarded as the tercentenary of modern Shorthand, was enough to stimulate the brotherhood of the flying pen into unwonted activity, and the result has been two highly interesting celebrations. The first suggestion for such a commemoration came from Dr. Westley-Gibson, and the project ultimately resolved itself into the London International Shorthand Congress. Meanwhile Manchester, having special interest in phonography, not only decided to send delegates to the Jubilee Congress, but to have a special celebration of its own. The Manchester meetings were held August 29 and 30, and were highly successful. The proceedings opened with a conference held at the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Mayor of Manchester (Alderman J. J. Harwood), who is himself a phonographer.—Mr. E. J. Baillie, F.L.S. (Chester), read a thoughtful and scholarly paper on "Shorthand and the Intellectual Life."—Mr. E. J. Cross (Manchester) contributed a practical paper on the "Teaching of Phonography in Large Classes."—Miss Reynolds (Liverpool) read a paper on "Shorthand for Women," in which she urged that ladies should enter more fully than at present the stenographic profession.—The Mayor expressed his sympathy with this suggestion, and offered to give every facility in his power for bringing the matter fairly under public consideration.—Mr. Henry Pitman was absent from ill-health, and his "Reminiscences of Phonography in Manchester" were taken as read.—Mr. W. E. A. Axon read a paper entitled "English the Dominant Language of the Future," in which, after giving statistics of the relative increase of the great languages of the world, he argued that the irrational and vexatious spelling of the English tongue was the greatest hindrance to its progress.

In the evening Mr. Isaac Pitman was entertained at dinner by the Vegetarian Society, of which he is a Vice-President.

On the evening of August 30, there was a large and enthusiastic meeting in the Association Hall, under the presidency of Sir Edward Watkin, M.P., to hear an address from Mr. Pitman as to the origin and progress of the system of Shorthand with which his name is connected.—Prof. Boyd Dawkins, F.R.S., and Dr. J. H. Gladstone also addressed the meeting. It is a curious evidence of the popularity of phonography that out of an audience of a thousand there were a mere handful unacquainted with it. Mr. Pitman, in the course of his address, mentioned that it was a Manchester firm who explained the methods of lithography to him, and in consequence he issued in that town the first phonographic periodical that ever came from the press. The penny post gave cheap facility for phonetic shorthand, and lithography enabled it to be produced in a cheap fashion, that would have astonished the authors of the dear and often inefficient stenographies by which it was preceded.

These Manchester gatherings served as preludes to the more important meetings of the International Shorthand Congress which were held in the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street.

The Congress opened 26th Sept. with an address from the Earl of Rosebery, who accepted the Presidency, not as an expert, but as a token of the interest in and gratitude for the services of stenographers felt by statesmen and public men. Lord Rosebery made a brilliant and amusing speech, in which he dealt with the history of parliamentary reporting, and suggested that greater use should be made of stenography in the public offices.—Mr. T. A. Reed then made a statement as to the objects of the Congress and the methods by which it had been organized, and concluded by introducing the foreign delegates, on whose behalf Dr. Zeibig, of Dresden, replied. Sir Charles Russell and Mr. Gurney-Salter also spoke.—The second day was devoted to the consideration of questions relating to parliamentary reporting. Papers were read by Messrs. G. M. Bussey, Thompson Cooper, James Heckscher, and Mr. Gurney Angus.—Mr. Gurney-Salter gave a resume of the result of inquiries as to the practice of parliamentary reporting in other countries. Lord Rosebery and others joined in the discussion.—Prof. Zeibig read a paper on Tachygraphy in Spanish and Portuguese countries.—Dr. Dessau contributed a history of shorthand in Scandinavia,

and M. L. P. Guenin a notice of Jacques Cossard.—Mr. W. H. Gurney-Salter then described the history of the Gurney system, which is at present employed in reporting the proceedings of parliamentary committees.—Mr. E. Pocknell read a paper on the phonographic basis of English shorthand, and contended that the existence of this early element had been underrated.—Mr. A. W. Croxton (Manchester) read a notice of the Shorthand MSS. of John Harland in the Free Library, Manchester.—Miss Reynolds (Liverpool) described the use of the type-writer in connection with shorthand.—In the evening a dinner was held in the Holborn Restaurant, at which Sir Charles Russell presided.

The third day of the Congress (Wednesday) was devoted exclusively to the consideration of phonography and phonetic subjects. Spelling Reform formed the basis of discussion in the morning, many interesting and important suggestions being made for the introduction of a reformed system of spelling of the English language. Dr. J. H. Gladstone (a well-known advocate of the reform of English spelling) presided, and in his introductory remarks observed that two great advantages had flowed from phonography, one in its relation to shorthand, and the other in the fact that the alphabet of phonography afforded the best means of writing down the pronunciation of any name, proper, geographical, or scientific. Two interesting and important papers were read by Mr. Isaac Pitman and Mr. J. B. Rundell, upon the progress made by spelling reformers in late years. But the most important part of the morning's meeting was the discussion, in which all the speakers representing numerous systems and antagonistic in other ways, concurred in thinking that a reform was much needed. The Chairman (Dr. Gladstone) in closing the discussion expressed the opinion that a Royal Commission ought to take the question up, a remark that was warmly cheered.—In the afternoon several papers were read dealing with the place of phonography in education, and the methods of teaching the system.—Mr. J. Pirie, M.A. (London), read a paper upon the teaching of phonography in large public schools, advocating its use in higher class schools; while Mr. A. W. Croxton (Manchester), contributed a paper entitled, "Phonography in Elementary Schools," in which he suggested that phonography might with advantage be introduced as a subject to be taught in board and elementary schools. A paper upon "Shorthand in Kindergarten" was also read by Mr. Rundell. Contributions were made on the methods of teaching phonography in classes by Miss Beauclerc (Birmingham), and Mr. E. S. Gunn (London). Mr. Isaac Pitman also read a paper upon "The Genesis of Phonography." In the evening the presentation of a marble bust of Mr. Pitman, of which the sculptor was Mr. T. Brock, A.R.A., was made to Mr. Pitman's family by Mr. T. A. Reed, in the presence of a large assemblage.

Thursday morning was given up to the consideration of legal and official shorthand writing; and in the afternoon the subject of "Shorthand in Education" was discussed. A paper was read by Mr. C. Henderson Scott on "Legal Reporting in England." Mr. H. H. Tolcher also read a paper upon the shorthand writing in the law courts of this country, and Mr. J. C. Watt, F.S.A. (Glasgow), contributed a description of the system of legal shorthand writing in Scotland. Herr Otto Müller sent a paper on "Shorthand in the German Law Courts," which was read by Mr. W. Mehlhaus (Manchester). In the afternoon a visit was paid to the Houses of Parliament, a conversazione being held in the evening.

Friday opened with a Conference on the "Principles of Shorthand and the Structure of Systems," papers being read by Mr. Valpy, Prof. J. D. Everett, F.S.A. (Belfast), and Mr. J. M. Sloan. Mr. T. A. Reed also read a paper upon "The Representation of Figures in Shorthand." In the afternoon, by invitation of the Lord Mayor (Sir Reginald Hanson), about 300 of the members of the Congress were entertained to luncheon at the Mansion House.

On Saturday the concluding proceedings of the Congress were held. During the early part of the morning the discussions upon Legal Reporting and Shorthand in Education were concluded. The subject of Police Reporting, which had

arisen incidentally out of the proceedings of the previous meeting, was discussed, and the question of the Government delegating work involving so many interests and productive of so much evil if undertaken by necessarily incompetent and uneducated policemen was warmly discussed.—Mr. Guest read a paper upon some experiments he had made in connection with teaching little children shorthand, and Dr. Zeibig (Dresden), who occupied the chair, truly remarked that the whole of the proceedings must be productive of much good to the cause of Shorthand generally.—The formal business of closing the Congress, and the deciding of the

next place of meeting was then undertaken. Invitations had been received from Paris, Berlin, and Munich, asking that the next meeting of the Congress might be held in these respective cities. Finally it was decided that Munich should be the place chosen for the meeting of 1889. The selection is a happy one, the shorthand writers of Germany having decided to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Francis Xavier Gabelsberger, the author of a largely used German system of shorthand, in that city in the autumn of 1889. The Transactions of the Congress are to be published in a substantial volume.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

THE BRAHUI LANGUAGE.—To trace the origin of the Brāhūi language is a task which has hitherto baffled all attempts. Spoken as it is by a tribe who are surrounded by peoples with idioms widely differing from their own, it first attracted the attention of Major Leech, who contributed a sketch of its grammar with a vocabulary to the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for 1839. Lassen criticised Leech's essay in Vol. V. of the *Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*, and arrived at the conclusion that the Brāhūi was probably of Dravidian growth; but his arguments were vague and he evidently hesitated to give a decided opinion on the subject. Felico Finzi, who published a sketch of Brāhūi in the *Bolletino della società geografica italiana*, fasc. 5, was unable to throw new light on the subject, and even Dr. Bellew's account of the Brāhūi people, and his short but singularly complete and lucid sketch of the grammar did not finally settle the point whether Brāhūi is a Dravidian language or not. A native Maulawi, with the name of Alla Bux, issued in 1877 a Handbook of the Brāhūi Language, which contained besides a grammar, also texts and fables with English translation, and in the same year, Capt. Nicolson published a Brāhūi Reader under the title of "Meanee, etc., a compilation of extracts from Napier's Conquest of Sindh, Grant Duff's Mahratta History, etc., translated into the Brāhūi Language." This was the material at Dr. Trumpp's disposal, when he compiled his "Grammatische Untersuchungen über die Sprache der Brāhūis," which he presented to the Munich Academy of Sciences, in December, 1880, and of which Dr. Duka has now prepared an English adaptation. The latter was published in the "Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland," vol. xix. part 1, and has been reprinted as "An Essay on the Brāhūi Grammar, by Dr. Th. Duka" (London, Trübner & Co.). Trumpp attempted to establish a grammatical structure of Brāhūi, by comparing it with the Dravidian idioms on the one hand, and with the neighbouring Baluchi and Sindhi languages on the other, and although he was at first inclined to class it with the Kolarian group, he finally came to the conclusion that it must after all be of Dravidian origin. Kolarian it could not be, on account of its want of a Dual, which is such a conspicuous feature in all languages of that growth, but it certainly also differed in many points from the South Dravidian dialects. This, however, could hardly be wondered at, considering the gap of a thousand years by which it was separated from them; and although it had borrowed many words from the Baluchi language and also from the Jāt dialect of Sindhi, it still retained sufficiently characteristic features to enable Trumpp, and with him Dr. Duka, to assert with some confidence that it could reasonably be classed as a Dravidian language.

Some difficulty has hitherto existed as to the proper pronunciation of Brāhūi, and although it of course is a Sindhi word (बिरुही *i.e.* Birūhi), Nicolson twice writes it براہوی which cannot be pronounced otherwise than Brāhūi, or Birāhūi, and this must therefore be considered the correct pronunciation.

As regards Dr. Trumpp's and Dr. Duka's grammatical studies of the language, we need only say that they will commend themselves to every scholar. We have here a handbook which explains the grammatical structure of the language, and we are convinced that by giving it a careful perusal, a fair idea can be formed of the characteristic features of Brāhūi. Travellers will find it a useful guide, and missionaries as well as the agents of our Government in the Brāhūi districts will best know how to appreciate a medium which will enable them to understand and make themselves understood by the native population.

AN ARABIC GRAMMAR.—The Delegates of the Clarendon Press have issued Part I. of a "Practical Arabic Grammar," by Brigade-Major A. O. Green. The edition before us is the

second, the first having been exhausted in nine months. One hundred and fifty copies of the first edition were issued sheet by sheet to meet the requirements of the officers of the English army in Egypt. A new edition of Part II. is also nearly ready for the press, and will contain a key to all the exercises and stories in Part I., a short selection from modern authors, an English-Arabic and Arabic-English vocabulary, and a small collection of manuscript letters, etc. The author has aimed to make his grammar eminently practical, giving just what is required by military men or travellers, without going too deeply into the language. The conversations, vocabularies, and lessons on the parts of speech are given both in the Arabic and Roman character.

AFRICAN LANGUAGES.—Germany has of late made mighty strides to overtake us in the study of Oriental Languages, and the new Oriental College at Berlin bids fair to outstrip, for practical and mercantile purposes, every similar institute already in existence. German colonization has been directed chiefly to Africa, and it is therefore not to be wondered at that a fair amount of attention has been bestowed upon the African vernaculars. A grammar and dictionary of Herero on the most elaborate scale have been compiled by Dr. Brincker, and have been edited and published under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences at Berlin by Dr. C. G. Büttner. The latter has also issued a short sketch of Suahili, and Dr. E. Nagel has prepared a Vocabulary of the Zulu Kaffir language. In addition to these works African Linguistics have now even received a separate organ, a periodical devoted entirely to the study of African languages. The first number of the "Zeitschrift für afrikanische Sprachen" has just reached us, and the following list of contents will show how valuable it will be for every student if the editor is able to maintain in his future issues the same remarkable standard of excellence. The number contains: Chuo cha utenzi. Gedichte im alten Suahili. Aus den Papieren des Dr. L. Krapf.—Zur Grammatik der Sprache Bokundu. Von C. H. Richardson.—Negersagen von der Goldküste. Von J. G. Christaller.—Texte und Gesänge der Sotho. Von Dr. Endemann.—Wörterverzeichnis aus dem Kischagga und Pare.—Litteratur.—Abhandlungen und Zeitschriften.

A PESHITO VERSION OF THE GOSPELS.—The Delegates of the Clarendon Press propose to publish a revised text of the Peshito version of the Four Gospels edited by the Rev. G. H. Gwilliam, a Syriac scholar of considerable eminence, who has issued a specimen of the style of the work, and solicits suggestions from scholars for any improvement in the plan and execution of the undertaking. The versions which will be collated for this one will be those of the Tattam Collection, the Nestorian copy in the Rich Collection 768, the Florentine copy 586, that in the Dawkins Collection, and also the very ancient copy belonging to Earl Crawford.

VOLAPÜK.—Mr. Charles E. Sprague, of New York, issues the following:—An article by Richmond Walker in the *American Magazine* for June, entitled "The Universal Language," appears to have awakened interest in the subject. As my name is mentioned in the article, I have received, directly and through the publisher, many letters of inquiry, to which I beg to reply by means of this circular.

What is Volapük?—A scientific, international language; not to supersede any living language, but to be learned next to the mother-tongue, by every educated person. Formed on the general model of the Aryan family of languages, selecting from each the true and beautiful, discarding irregularities, oddities and difficulties. Material taken largely from English. Far easier to learn than any existing language. Perfectly regular and transparent. Invented by Rev. Father Johann Martin Schleyer, of Constance, Baden, Germany.

How to Study Volapük.—Full grammars and dictionaries

have been published in French and German. In Spanish and Italian (as well as in several other languages) the grammars have been published, and the dictionaries are in preparation. I will indicate what I consider the best books for any of my correspondents who inform me in what foreign language they are proficient. In English there is no dictionary as yet, and the only text-book which is at all satisfactory is entitled: "Abridged Grammar of Volapük. By Prof. Kerckhoffs. Adapted to the use of English-speaking people, by Karl Dornbusch." Published by H. Le Soudier, 174, Boulevard St. Germain, Paris, France. Price, 1 franc 25. From this book a very good beginning can be made. Every one interested in the study should subscribe to the "Weltspracheblatt" or "Volapükable" (Constance, Baden: 2 marks 60 per year), published by Father Schleyer, the inventor. It contains the names of Volapükatidels and others who are willing to correspond in Volapük with all countries. This is an excellent way of practising. You can send in your name as desirous of corresponding. I think it a duty for Volapükists to subscribe, on account of the assistance it will give to Father Schleyer. I am willing to forward subscriptions at 65 cents, and to order the "Abridged Grammar" from Paris at 30 cents. I have been urged to supply the want of English text-books in Volapük, by writing a "Hand-book of Volapük." I am now engaged in preparing this book, and hope to bring it out in the Fall of this year. My plan is as follows: To write an instruction-book suited for those who understand English only, and who may have studied no grammar but the English. To write it with constant reference to use in translating from and into English. To give, from the very beginning, practical and progressive exercises, so that the book may be studied without the aid of a teacher. To give a short dictionary of the most necessary words. Thus the book will be grammar, exercises, reader, and dictionary in itself. The cost will not exceed \$1.00. I should be glad to hear from those who expect to order it, that I may form an idea of the probable demand, especially if any clubs desire a number of copies. I have not much time for general correspondence on the subject, but will gladly answer any specific inquiry, or remove any difficulty if in my power.—CHARLES E. SPRAGUE.

We may add that Messrs. Trübner & Co. will publish Mr. Sprague's Handbook in London.

WETHANDAYA.—*A Buddhist Legend, sketched from the Burmese Version of the Pali Text, by ALLAN GOSS.*—The story of We-than-da-yā is perhaps the best known of the ten "large histories" of the different existences of Gaudama. It relates how Buddha Gaudama excelled in the virtue of self-abnegation, while the other nine are devoted to nine other virtues of Gaudama which he performed in as many other existences. Its origin is undoubtedly Indian, and the legend was first written down in Pali. The present work is a sketch of its contents taken from the Burmese version, and although in parts the author keeps somewhat strictly to the original, it can on the whole hardly be considered more than a free adaptation. It gives in 80 pages a summary of the contents of the Wethandaya, and relates pleasantly all that is likely to interest and please European readers. Mr. Goss is particularly fortunate in his choice of words and phrases, and his style is always interesting and attractive, on account of the peculiarly Oriental colouring which he has succeeded in adopting. He has followed the Burmese version of the story, because he considers that Burma has, more than any other Buddhistic country, preserved Buddhism in its purest forms. The story is, besides, very widely circulated in Burma, not only in book-form, which has taken the place of the old palm-leaf MS., but also in dramatic representations and paintings of the leading incidents. These latter are to be found in the pagodas, monasteries, etc., and are sometimes compositions of great artistic merit. We recommend Mr. Goss's book to everybody interested in the various phases of Buddhistic legends. It is far more readable than the majority of similar attempts; the book is excellently printed, and is illustrated by a native artist.

THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOUR.—Although fifteen of the separate States of the Union have had for some years past Bureaux of Labour which have issued very valuable reports, the Federal government did not establish one until June 27, 1884, and no officers were appointed before January, 1885, when, under a commission received from the President, Mr. Carrol D. Wright was appointed as Director, and on February 3rd of the same year, Mr. Owen W. Weaver was appointed chief clerk. We have the First Report now before us transmitted March 17th, 1886; it is divided into two volumes, the first being on Industrial Depression, and

the second on Convict Labour. The first volume contains five chapters. The first, on Modern Industrial Depressions, contains Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Germany from 1837 to 1886, and the United States from 1837 to 1878. Chapter two covers industrial depressions in the United States from 1882 to 1886. Chapter three is on the Manufacturing Nations considered as a group in relation to the present depression. Chapter four contains suggested remedies for depressions, and chapter five a summary on depressions, their causes and remedies. The Report has also three appendices, A, B, and C, the first on Occupations and Wages by Industries, the second on Earnings and Expenses of Wage Receivers in Europe, and the third a Synopsis of Labour Legislation in the U. S. A. The second volume of the Report, on Convict Labour, goes thoroughly into the subject, and even gives historical notes on the early nations who employed Convict Labour, together with eight nations of Europe and seven nations in North and South America in the present day who make their convicts work at trades. Chapter one is chiefly tables. Chapter two contains an analysis of tables. Chapter three contains investigations into the convict labour of eleven States of the Union, and Chapter four gives the advantages and disadvantages of various systems and plans.

REPORTS FROM THE CONSULS OF THE UNITED STATES.—We have received since our last notice of these valuable issues Nos. 79, 80, 81, and 82. No. 79 contains articles on the grasses of the Argentine Republic and the sheep of the same region. No. 80 is on European commerce, and consists of selections from the Annual Reports of the Consular Service known as "Commercial Relations." No. 81 contains Forest Culture in New South Wales, the "Chinese Railway Company," and under "Germany" a very important article on slag, the refuse of the blast furnaces, proving that if ground to a powder, it is superior to Peruvian guano as a fertilizer, containing 16 per cent. of phosphoric acid, 50 per cent. of lime, besides other constituents useful to farmers. According to this same report Siam is to have five railroads, and the city of Bangkok a tramway, the King having granted a concession to two Europeans who are in high favour with him. No. 82 contains communications from the Argentine Republic, Brazil, Canada, Chili, Hayti, Honduras, Mexico, and Salvador in America, and Switzerland and Great Britain in Europe. The fact is, the information presented is bewildering from its diversity.

Besides the ordinary numbers of the Consuls Reports, two separate ones have been issued not in the regular series. One is on Forestry in Europe, and to describe its aim and scope we cannot do better than quote the instructions as issued to the Consuls by Assistant Secretary James D. Porter, Esq., of the Department of State, Washington. They were to give information answering the following questions:—1. Areas under forests, distinguishing where possible between State and private areas. 2. Common forests, if any, and privileges of the population in them. If pasture is permitted, how are the trees, etc., protected? 3. Organization and functions of government bureaux. 4. Revenues from government forests; cost of maintaining or managing forests; profits of forest cultivation. 5. Forest planting and culture; methods; bounties, if any; schools, their organization and courses of study. 6. Destruction of forests, causes and results. 7. Reclamations of sand drives or waste places by tree planting. 8. Sources of lumber supply, trade in lumber, bounties on importation, if any, and customs duties. 9. Give the names of three reliable sellers of seeds and shoots in your district. 10. Transmit to the Department copies and translations of the forest laws of the district in which you reside.

The other special and separate Report is on "Cattle and Dairy Farming," and has been preparing since July 18th, 1883, when a circular was issued at the suggestion of some of the leading stockmen of the United States, asking the Consuls to collect information on the subject. The result of this circular is a report of 870 pages, which we are bound to say will be the reference book on the subject for years to come. It contains 123 portraits of British cattle, 65 portraits of French cattle, 14 portraits of Swiss cattle, 18 portraits of Italian cattle, 4 portraits of Belgian cattle, 4 portraits of Spanish cattle, 51 portraits of German cattle, 1 portrait of a Dutch cow, 30 portraits of Russian cattle, 2 portraits of Hungarian cattle, 2 portraits of Canadian cattle, 4 portraits of Mexican cattle, 2 portraits of Brazilian cattle, and 8 portraits of Singhalese cattle. Of scientific instruments, implements, and machines in dairy use there are 25 plates. On butchering there are 4 plates, 3 plates on model farm and cattle houses, 1 plate on delivering milk, 4 portraits of milkmaids and 3 portraits of English sheep. Such a mass of infor-

mation as this Report contains has never before been collected on the subject, but it is literally thrown together and wants properly editing. If it had been put under the supervision of an expert in agricultural matters—such an expert as Dr. Thurber, editor of the *American Agriculturist*—it would have come out of the press twice as useful as it is at present. We hear Congress is to be applied to for a fresh grant to reprint the Report, as only a limited number were issued. If such should be the case, it would be an excellent opportunity to have it well edited, and the indexing properly done.

AMERICAN TRADE LIST ANNUAL.—The fifteenth year of this very useful publication is before us, giving the catalogues of American publishers with an annual record of books published from July 3, 1886, to June 30, 1887, and the American Educational Catalogue, brought down to the same date. This work is fitted with Dennison's Duplex Index, which makes it very convenient, and is a great saving of time when making references. It may not be generally known that to America belongs the credit of having started "Trade List Annals," Mr. Challen, of Philadelphia, having been the first to issue them, though his volume did not come anywhere near the thickness of the portly volumes of the present day.

THE BANKSIDE SHAKESPEARE.—The Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies of William Shakespeare, as presented at the Globe and Blackfriars Theatres circa 1591-1623, being the text furnished the players, in parallel pages with the first revised folio text, with critical introductions, is in preparation under the auspices of the Shakespeare Society of New York (Trübner & Co., London); it will be printed at the Riverside Press, Cambridge, Mass., and is to consist of an arrangement of the earliest known text, printed in parallel pages with the 1623 Heminges and Condell text, thus illustrating the growth of a Shakespearian play during the lifetime of the dramatist himself. Critical introductions will be furnished by scholars and specialists in some particular field illustrated by each text, which are intended, in every case, to be exclusive of material within the range of the critical notices of other editions of the dramatist. The first play of *The Bankside Edition* will be 'The Merry Wives of Windsor,' prepared under the care of Mr. Appleton Morgan, President of the New York Shakespeare Society, whose special study has been the phenomena of the building of the Shakespeare Plays from earlier and contemporary models, incidents and suggestions. The second play of the series will be 'The Taming of the Shrew,' as paralleled with the prior 'Taming of a Shrew' of 1594, with critical introduction by Mr. Albert R. Frey, of the Astor Library. 'Love's Labour's Lost' (edited with special reference to the word-play in that comedy), prepared by a prominent student of Elizabethan English, is expected to follow. Seventeen other plays which it is proposed to publish in *The Bankside Edition* are:—'Romeo and Juliet,' 'Henry V.,' 'Titus Andronicus,' 'Richard III.,' 'Midsummer's Night's Dream,' 'Richard II.,' 'Merchant of Venice,' 'Henry IV.,' part i., 'Henry IV.,' part ii., 'Much Ado About Nothing,' 'Troilus and Cressida,' 'Hamlet,' 'Othello,' 'King Lear,' 'Henry VI.,' part ii., 'Henry VI.,' part iii., 'Pericles.' As the edition is intended for scholars and special students, no readings (so-called) will be incorporated into the text itself, the texts of the earliest and latest (1623) contemporary edition being carefully paralleled as they appeared in and about the Shakespearian period. Each play will be issued separately, and will form a handsome octavo volume of from 180 to 280 pages, printed on laid paper and bound in boards, uncut. The edition will be limited to 500 copies, and the price to subscribers will be 12s. 6d. per volume. As the edition is limited, an early application by intending subscribers is desirable.

INDEX TO AMERICAN GENEALOGIES.—Since the publication of the second edition of this work by Daniel S. Durrie in 1878, large and valuable additions have been made to the department of Family History, and of the histories of towns and counties; and at the urgent request of many persons interested in genealogical investigations, a new edition has been prepared (Joel Munsell's Sons, Albany; Trübner and Co., London). It contains the matter of the former edition, together with about seven thousand additional references, and every effort has been made to make the work as full and complete as possible, and it is believed that but few if any works issued in the past ten years have been overlooked. The first edition issued in 1868 contained about ten thousand references; the second in 1878 contained about fifteen thousand, and the present edition contains about twenty-two thousand references. Notwithstanding this great increase in the size of the volume, it is issued at the same price, and

contained in one octavo volume, finely printed on heavy paper and durably bound in muslin. This being a subscription work, the edition was limited to about the number subscribed for, and the price of the few remaining copies will be, for the present, the same as the subscription price. This edition is designed as a final one, all new material will be issued in a supplementary volume, therefore the value of the work will increase with time, and not become out of date as was the case with former editions.

We give below the *Preface to the 1886 Edition* which explains fully the aim of the book.—"This work has been prepared with a view to facilitate the study of family history, by furnishing an Index to the genealogies contained in the large number of county and town histories, collections of public and privately printed genealogies, centennial anniversary celebrations, biographies, and other works containing the desired information. But few persons have an adequate knowledge of the amount of genealogical material to be found in such volumes, from the fact, that anything like a full collection of works in those departments can only be found in large cities, and in the hands of a few private parties; and without consulting them it is often an impossibility to prepare a family history, or of learning anything very definite of any particular family. With the assistance furnished by this volume, no difficulty will be experienced in collecting needed information, by any one interested in such investigations. It also affords instruction to the general reader, who may not know whether the history of his native county, town or village has been written and published; but its most desirable feature is the knowledge to be gained by all persons, whether residing in the country or elsewhere, who, by examining its pages, can inform themselves whether the genealogy, or pedigree of any family, or any portion thereof, in which they may feel an interest, has been printed in any volume, and if so, that they may have the benefit of such information. More than ten thousand names are here alphabetically arranged. Several hundred volumes of historical and biographical publications have been minutely examined in detail, and not depending on the indexes appended in such volumes, which are more or less defective, and incomplete. A number of works not accessible to the compiler have been examined by parties interested in performing the work. The more important names in Dr. Savage's "Genealogical Dictionary" have been noticed, as well as the genealogies found in twenty-one published volumes of the "New England Historical and Genealogical Register." This is the only work of the kind published in this country. It has been the aim of the compiler to make it as thorough and complete as possible, though undoubtedly there are some works that have been inadvertently omitted. With the hope that it will supply a need which it is believed has long existed and be of utility to the genealogical student, the volume is commended to the public."—Messrs. Joel Munsell's Sons, of Albany, have published a list of over eight hundred Genealogies of separate families, besides "Collective Works," "Town Histories," "County Histories," "Genealogical Periodicals," "Genealogical Manuals," and "Epitaphs."

ANCIENT NAHUATL POETRY.—The Seventh Volume of Dr. Brinton's Library of Aboriginal American Literature is a collection of Nahuatl songs and poetry, containing the Nahuatl text of twenty-seven ancient Mexican Poems, with a translation by himself, together with an introduction, notes, and vocabulary. Dr. Brinton says there is a large body of Nahuatl literature both prose and poetry still awaiting publication, and as the language is not a difficult one to acquire, its grammar being simple and regular, and its sounds soft and sonorous, it has special recommendations to one who would acquaint himself with an American aboriginal language. We append a specimen (No. XXV.) of the Nahuatl songs. It is entitled Tico, toco, tocoto, and then it ends ticoto, ticoto.

1. The sweet-voiced quechol there, ruling the earth, has intoxicated my soul.

2. I am like the quetzal bird, I am created in the house of the one only God, I sing sweet songs among the flowers; I chant songs and rejoice in my heart.

3. The fuming dew-drops from the flowers in the field intoxicate my soul.

4. I grieve to myself that ever this dwelling on earth should end.

5. I foresaw, being a Mexican, that our rule began to be destroyed, I went forth weeping that it was to bow down and be destroyed.

6. Let me be not angry that the grandeur of Mexico is to be destroyed.

7. The smoking stars gather together against it; the one who cares for flowers is about to be destroyed.

8. He who cared for books wept, he wept for the beginning of the destruction."

This song is one evidently composed after the Spanish conquest, as in it the poet mournfully regrets that his country is doomed to final destruction as a result of the conquest.

Dr. Brinton issues the following notice at the commencement of a neat list of this valuable library, in order to call the attention of librarians and philologists to his laudable and disinterested efforts to preserve the native literature of America in a form available for students and general reference.

"The aim of the editor of this series is to put within the reach of students authentic materials for the study of the languages and culture of the native race of America.

The plan is to print only such works as have been composed in the native languages by the natives themselves, thus presenting these tongues in their real forms. The jargons or mixed dialects, whose importance in linguistic science is now recognized, are included in this scheme. It is also kept in view to select productions which have some historic or ethnologic value beyond that to philology alone, and each is accompanied with translations, notes, etc.

There have now been seven volumes of the library issued which can be obtained separately. The editions are limited to about 400 copies, barely enough to meet the expenses of manufacture, and it is hoped that the interest in American ethnology will be sufficient to admit of the continuance of the series. There remains in the editor's hands abundant material for this. If the expenses of the works can be defrayed by their sale, he hopes to publish the following additional volumes:—

I. *Aboriginal American Anthology*.—A collection of songs from ten or a dozen Indian tribes, with notes, metrical and literal translations, etc. The material for this is almost ready.

II. *Native American Calendars*.—A collection of astronomical and astrological calendars in the native languages of Mexico and Central America. A mass of curious and suggestive native lore.

III. *The Annals of Cuauhtitlan*.—The original text, with a new and correct translation of this, the most valuable of all the native chronicles of ancient Mexico.

IV. *Prose and Poetry from the Nahuatl*.—A selection of extracts from Nahuatl writers, in prose and verse, from MSS. or extremely rare books, illustrating the development of the language and the psychology of the nation.

V. *Legends of the Micmacs*.—A collection of legends and tales in the Micmac tongue, composed by natives, with literal translations and a comparative study of Algonkin folk-lore.

VI. *The Books of Chilán Balam*.—The sacred volume of the modern Mayas, one of the most remarkable compositions of the native American mind.

These and other works of a similar character will be issued from time to time, if sufficient interest in the series is manifested by students of this branch, by libraries and private collectors, to meet the cost of publishing them.

Up to the present time this has scarcely been the case; and the editor feels that he has, perhaps, undertaken a task which should be that of a Society rather than a private individual; but he hopes the result of this appeal will enable him to continue the enterprise."

MEN, PLACES, AND THINGS.—Messrs. S. C. Griggs & Co., of Chicago, announce a new book under this title by Dr. William Matthews, author of "Getting on in the World," etc. Amongst the subjects it will contain may be mentioned "The Character of Napoleon the First," "Alexander Dumas," "The Greatness of London," "Cynics and Cynicism," "The Weaknesses of Great Men," "The Extremes of Dress," and a chapter on "The House of Commons," consisting of pen pictures of its most famous members.

INITIALS AND PSEUDONYMES.—Mr. William Cushing, of Cambridge, Mass., announces that a Supplement to his "Initials and Pseudonyms" will soon be ready. It will contain about six hundred additional Initials and Pseudonyms to those contained in his first volume, subscribers to which are solicited to send in their orders promptly for the "Supplement."

CHINA IN AMERICA.—Under this title, Mr. Stewart Culin has reprinted in a separate form his very interesting paper read before the American Association for the Advancement of Science (Section Anthropology) at the thirty-sixth meeting, New York, 1887, on the Social Life of the Chinese in the Eastern Cities of the United States. We understand that Mr. Culin contemplates at some future day bringing out a larger work on the Chinese, whose habits and customs he has for some time past made his study.

EDUCATION IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.—From the Forty-fifth Annual Report of the Board of Education of the City of New York we found that the total amount drawn from the Comptroller for the purpose of public instruction during the year 1886 amounted to \$4,057,032.75, with which 305 schools were supported, as under—2 Normal Colleges and Training Departments; 47 Grammar Schools for Males, 48 Grammar Schools for Females, 13 for both sexes mixed, 78 Primary Departments of Grammar Schools, 40 Primary Schools, 28 Evening Schools, 1 Nautical School, 48 Corporate Schools (Industrial Schools, Reformatories, Orphan Asylums, etc.). The Report gives the course of instruction in the various schools, with examination papers for class honours.

MERIDEN SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION.—The second volume of the Transactions of the Meriden (Connecticut) Scientific Association, just to hand, contains the *Calopterus Gracilis*, by Dr. Charles H. S. Davis; the *Hanging Hills*, by Dr. J. H. Chapin; a List of Birds of Meriden, by Franklin Platt; Additional Plants of Meriden found since 1885, by Mrs. E. B. Kendrick, and an article and poem on West Peak, by the Rev. J. T. Petter.

SUGAR IN LOUISIANA.—Bulletin No. 15 of the United States Department Division of Chemistry is the Third Report of Experiments in the Manufacture of Sugar at "Magnolia Station," Lawrence, La., season, 1886-7, by Guilford L. Spencer. Accompanying the Report is an article and valuable table on sugar analysis by Dr. C. A. Crampton. The report also contains a brief account of the work of three Cuban sugar houses, showing certain economies that it would be well for the planters of Louisiana to adopt.

A HISTORY OF CANADA.—Mr. William Kingsford, of Ottawa, is engaged on a new History of Canada, the first volume of which will appear shortly. It will include the period previous to the descent of the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico by De la Salle on 9th April, 1682. The second volume, which will extend to the Peace of Utrecht, 1713, and the death of de Vaudreuil (10th October, 1725), and the third volume, continuing the narrative to the Conquest of Quebec, by Wolfe, in 1759, will appear during next year. These three volumes will conclude the period of French rule. It is the hope of the writer to continue the work to the 10th February, 1841, the date of the Union of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. This period of eighty years of British rule includes the two remarkable epochs of the Revolutionary American War, and the war of 1812 with the United States. There cannot be a doubt that there is a marked want of a narrative of the one hundred and fifty years during which Canada was held by the French, written temperately and honestly, without prejudice of creed or race; based upon original authorities; with no desire to establish preconceived views, or to attain any particular end. Moreover, in order fully to understand the events which have taken place in the last century and a quarter, it is indispensable that a correct knowledge be obtained of those prior facts, which have directly influenced the history of the later period. Within the last half century much progress has been made in obtaining contemporary records of the history of these earlier years, and their publication in New England, New York, Canada, Paris, and London, has thrown light on much which hitherto has not been easy of explanation. The writer has endeavoured earnestly to carry out his own view of the duties which he has accepted, and to divest himself, so far as he is able, of prejudice and fanciful feeling, in order to present a truthful history of the century and a half of French rule. In his labours he has been sustained by the hope that by so doing he will perform an important service; that of making the annals of Canada accessible to all who desire to study them, without perversion of fact and without the influence of sentimental colouring, by placing in the hands of those who read and think a work which may be accepted by them as useful and reliable. It must be admitted with regret that while the French Canadian men of education have been zealous students of this portion of history, seeking industriously to penetrate that which is obscure and doubtful; with the English portion of the Dominion, with few exceptions, both in Quebec and Ontario, the study of the French portion of our common annals has received but limited attention. This neglect is to be regretted on many grounds, especially on the part of those who take a leading place in public affairs. The early history may be profitably studied, even in the view of working out the institutions under which we live; and the policy of the Imperial Government, after the Peace of Paris, is not comprehensible without a knowledge of the events of those days, by which only that policy can be explained. There is much, too, which in these earlier chronicles is so marked by romance, and of such interest as records of

adventure, as to give an irresistible interest to Canadian history, even with those whose fortunes are not bound up in the prosperity and advancement of the country. On the other hand, those who live in the Dominion and desire to promote the cause of good government and righteous legislation, will find much to learn in the records of the past three centuries—such will soon be the past duration of Canadian political life—if not precisely in the light of a text book, nevertheless as a panorama of action, where may be traced much of human weakness and error, side by side with great qualities and honourable disinterestedness, a proof of the eternal principle, that the advancement and well-being of a country are inseparable from the truth and the honourable lives of its rulers. Thus men may learn the errors which they should avoid, and the virtues, which, as citizens and public men in view of their own happiness and the prosperity of the state, they should ever cultivate and never be seduced to abandon. Trübner & Co. will be the London publishers of this important work.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE FOR 1886.—Volume 19, second of the New Series, of which we have received an advance copy, is one teeming with interesting and valuable papers. Amongst the most notable ones are Traill's Economic Antarctic Exploration, Tregear's Polynesian Folk-Lore, and Blyth on the Whence of the Maori.

THE SYDNEY NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.—The *Sydney Evening News* of September 2, 1887, contains the following:—"The new wing of the Free Public Library was thrown open to the general public yesterday morning for the first time. There was no ceremony in connection with the event, that being reserved for the occasion of the laying of the foundation-stone of the wing to replace the old structure now in course of demolition. On Monday last the Minister for Justice paid a visit of inspection to the building, and expressed himself as highly satisfied with all the arrangements, and was of opinion that no unnecessary delay had taken place in performing the heavy labour of thoroughly cleansing the books, and making a fresh rearrangement and classification. The new premises show very vast improvement in every respect upon the old building, the principal librarian having apparently spared no effort to render them by the light of his extensive experience thoroughly complete and convenient for the purposes to which they are devoted. The library itself, which is in the Palladian style of architecture, is 58 ft. in length, 40 ft. in width at the base, 60 ft. wide at the top, and 40 ft. high. It contains four tiers of books, every book being in reach of hand by capital arrangement of balconies and galleries. The room is lighted by a square lantern roof with double sashes, both opening and sufficient to ensure the most perfect ventilation. At the side of the library facing Bent-street are the offices, part of which are used at present as students' and ladies' rooms pending the completion of the building. On the ground floor are the various departments connected with the care of the library, and a fine boardroom, which contains the rarest treasures belonging to the trustees, valuable State papers which from their great value are never allowed to be seen by any one unless under the supervision of an attendant, and the first folio edition of Shakespeare which, with its carved oak casket, was presented to the Library by Messrs. R. and G. Tangye, of Birmingham, at a cost to them of 500 guineas. In a room off the Library is the collection of Australian

books. The work of removing the books from the old to the new building has been one of great difficulty, so far as regards their classification and shelving. In order to gain sufficient space it was found necessary to rearrange the whole of them upon a new plan. This plan, which is an exceedingly simple one, has originated from Mr. R. C. Walker, and is much after the fashion of those square tables of figures which allow the multiplication of two figures to be found by following down the line in which one of the figures appears until it intersects the line in which the other stands; the point of intersection being the number required. Under the new arrangement the classes into which one or other of which all the books are put, are lettered from A to M, as under:—A, Natural Philosophy, Science, and the Arts; B, History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology; C, Biography and Correspondence; D, Geography, Topography, Voyages, Travels, and Atlases; E, Periodical and Serial Literature (gallery); F, Jurisprudence; G, Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education; H, Poetry and Drama; J, Miscellaneous Literature and Collected Works; K Works of Reference and Philology; M, Works Relating to Australasia. These initial letters stand conspicuously over each group of shelves. The shelves in turn are lettered from P to Z, and the books in each shelf lettered with the shelf letter, and numbered from one (1) upwards. Thus, if a person wants a work which appears in the catalogue as A.P.1., he knows that it is the first shelf in the top row of class A. The facility thus afforded in finding a book extends as well to its return to its proper place in the shelves. Mr. Walker, who has necessarily had a great deal to do with the determination of the plans, has to be congratulated upon having assisted to design a library, which is in every way suitable to the requirements of the public.

THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE LIBRARY.—The new volume of this library, edited by Mr. Geo. Lawrence Gomme, F.S.A. (Mr. Elliot Stock, Paternoster Row), is the second part of the seventh volume on "Romano-British Remains," and the eighth volume issued of the series. Of the local discoveries in England it contains from Staffordshire to Yorkshire, with some in the earlier part of the alphabet which were accidentally omitted in the first part. Wales, Scotland, and "Roman Roads and Stations" with "Historical Notes" and an index to both parts of volume seven make up over 300 pages out of the 632 contained in the full volume.

LITERARY EPOCHS.—Under this title Mr. George F. Underhill has issued a dainty little volume in the "Olive Series" (Mr. Elliot Stock, Paternoster Row), consisting of chapters on noted periods of intellectual activity. Mr. Underhill commences his little work with the "Ancient Classics," and follows on with "Medieval Italy," the "Elizabethan Era," "Louis XIV.," the "Age of Anne," "The French Revolution," and "America." He does not pretend to deal comprehensively with the history of literature, but only to show the tendency of intellectual power to gather in clusters.

BOOK RECEIVED.—Journal of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, vol. 21, Nos. 5 and 6, issued July, 1887.—China Review, May and June, 1887.—The Indian Magazine, November, 1887.—Macomb (Lieut. M. M.), Tables of Geographic Positions, Azimuths, and Distances, 4to. Washington.—Gold Fields of Victoria, Reports of Mining Registrars ending March 31, and June 3, 1887.—Babylonian and Oriental Record, Nos. 10, 11, and 12.

NEW AMERICAN BOOKS AND RECENT IMPORTATIONS.

Adams (H. B.)—Notes on the Literature of Charities. 8vo. paper, pp. 48. *Baltimore (Md.)*. 1s. 6d.

Atkinson (E.)—The Margin of Profits, How it is now Divided, what part of the Present Hours of Labour can now be Spared: an Address delivered before the Central Labour Lyceum of Boston on Sunday Evening, May 1, 1887. 12mo. cloth, pp. 123. *New York*. 4s.

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